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Harper, 8, and Lennon, 6, share a laugh in front of the Christmas tree. This year is the first that Harper has been able to sit independently, bringing extra celebration to the moment. /Submitted

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Buckslide Blues Cruise wins best radio show

SUE TIFFIN
County Life Staff

Patrick Monaghan, decked out in Canoe FM clothing, gives a thumbs up from the studio where he broadcasts the Buckslide Blues Cruise on Tuesday nights. The show was awarded Best Jazz or Blues Music Show by the National Campus and Community Radio Association in November. / Submitted photo

Five years ago, Patrick Monaghan might not have pictured himself sitting in his living room, decked out in Canoe FM swag, a popular radio host with a blues show nominated as one of the best in the country.

An hour or so into the National Campus and Community Radio Association's first ever digital awards gala celebrating the 2020 Community Radio Awards in Broadcast and Online on Nov. 6, an envelope was opened and Monaghan heard his name called when his Buckslide Blues Cruise program took the award for Best Jazz or Blues Music Show.

"I was quite thrilled to get it," said Monaghan. "Honoured to even be considered and thrilled to win the award."

Buckslide Blues Cruise, which Monaghan began hosting on Canoe FM in January 2016 is described as being "two hours of rocking blues with a tip of the hat to the pioneers and legends of the past," or as Monaghan himself describes it, "there's new and old, definitely off the beaten path and everything from Leadbelly to Led Zeppelin in the mix." The show is broadcast on Canoe FM on Tuesday evenings – right after radio bingo – from 7 to 9 p.m. and has a big following of listeners who tune in by radio or online. Monaghan notes that within that listener base, he has a lot of converts to the blues.

He's been listening to the blues himself for almost 50 years, although he didn't always recognize that he was drawn to that genre.

"I was interested in that kind of music before I realized what it was called," he said. "I listened, when I think about the rock music that I listened to in the early '70s, it was all blues-based, whether it be ZZ Top or Ten Years After or early Rolling Stones, when I look back it was all blues-based. As Muddy Waters said, the blues had a baby and they named it rock and roll."

That interest led to an expertise in the music that gave him something to focus on when he joined the radio station's team of volunteer hosts and announcers after being discovered at the farmers' market.

"I ran Buckslide Dog Treats for five years, and I would be at the farmers' markets, and different people from Canoe FM would stop by the farmers' market and say, you've got a good radio voice, you should come and do a voice test," said Monaghan. "That went on for a few years before I did it. They give you a few paragraphs to read, you read it, and if you don't sound like Pee-wee Herman you probably can be on the air. They want you to do a voice test so they know you're not going to sound like finger nails on a chalkboard."

Monaghan, with experience in public speaking, passed the test. But at first, he wasn't completely comfortable in the role.

"At first, it was a challenge to get on the air," he said. "Once I get started, I'm all right. It's just the anticipation. I had no background at all ... The first little while, it was very shaky. If I listen to a show from five years ago and I listen to a show now, they're very different. My confidence and relaxation. I don't like making mistakes but I don't sweat it now, like I used to. You can't get it back, you're live."

Prior to passing the torch, then-blues show host Lee MacLean stayed with Monaghan for the show a few nights, Monaghan said, "and then they cut me loose and I was on my own."

He credits her help, and that of Dave Kirkland, whose show Tuesday Night Sessions airs after the Buckslide Blues Cruise, for helping him find his way.

see page 3

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Community donations to help LTC residents enjoy the holidays

During a regular holiday season the HHHS Hyland Crest/Highland Wood Long Term Care homes would be exploding with family gatherings and volunteers offering visits, entertainment and gifts. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be without our volunteer's helpful hands and families will continue with private visiting procedures.

The staff in the homes have many shoes to fill this holiday season and are doing their best to help residents feel joy and happiness despite the circumstances. The homes will continue to hold the residents' favourite Christmas traditions including; Christmas parade, Christmas-themed parties and programs, sing alongs and baking.

Thanks to an extremely generous donation from McKeck's Tap & Grill and Fielding Estate Winery, the residents in both homes will enjoy a full turkey dinner with all the fixings and a celebratory toast.

Every day our HHHS dietary staff work hard in the kitchen preparing three meals and snacks for the residents. The donation of dinner and wine enables our staff to mingle and visit, focusing more time on our residents for Christmas Day.

HHHS and the Hyland Crest/Highland Wood Residents would like to send a very special thanks to McKeck's Tap & Grill and Fielding Estate Winery for their generosity and would like to extend the happiest holiday wishes to everyone in the Haliburton Highlands.

We are all so grateful for the compassionate acts of our good neighbors and supportive community. In the midst of a pandemic that has threatened our economy, our livelihood and our lives, the strength of our community continues to be a bright light.

-Submitted by Alisha LaFleur, life enrichment manager at Hyland Crest & Highland Wood Long-Term Care

'This has been my passion' says award-winning radio DJ

from page 2

"One evening after I'd been there for a couple of months, I used to hang around for a couple of minutes, look at the board and see what [Kirkland] was doing. One night I asked him, do you mind if I hang around for awhile and try to get some tips from what you're doing – he has about 40 years in the business. He said to me, better yet, get your butt in that chair. So I sat in the chair and I produced his show for the next two and a half years, with his training and guidance, by all means. The way I like to say it is, Lee McLean showed me how the buttons work, and Kirkland showed me how to work the buttons."

On average, Monaghan said he spends about five hours preparing for the weekly two-hour show. He puts together the playlist for the evening, researches each song that will be played, prepares for and conducts interviews, and puts the show together.

"I'm old-school, so I write it all out by hand and I find I learn better that way," he said. "The same goes for my shows, I don't pick from a list, I have a CD rack with about 1,000 CDs on it, and I stand in front of the rack the way I used to pull albums for a house party."

He also takes to the road to see shows – one weekend last year in June, he was in Rochester, New York, with Downchild Blues Band, in Oshawa the next night with the B&B Blues Band, and then the next day, MCing at the Stratford Blues and Ribfest.

"I put 1,500 kilometres on in about three days," said Monaghan. "To be there, and enjoy it, and I love it."

It's a lot of work to organize a show, and promote it in the enthusiastic way he does, but Monaghan said he thinks he could do a three hour program – he always seems to run out of time at the end of the two hours, and said there's never enough time for all of his songs. Mentally, he sometimes feels exhausted by the end of longer stints in the studio though. A few weeks ago he told his listeners he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer about 14 months ago, but that the show would go on.

"That's two hours a week that I'm not sick," he said. "When I hit that button and that board lights up, I'm not sick. It gives me energy, it takes me away from any of the anxiety that comes along with the situation, for two hours I'm good. It's an outlet, it takes me away from what I'm dealing with."

When he got his diagnosis, and had a related surgery, the musicians he has followed and promoted for years recognized his effort and gave back, putting on a benefit for him in Wasaga Beach that raised about $5,000 for the expenses incurred due to illness. Crowbar, Cheryl Lescom, B&B Blues Band and Chuck Jackson were among the performers who took part in A Bluesman's Concert and Dance benefit last November.

"I can talk about it now, but I couldn't do it without tears in my eyes before," he said.

The diagnosis, and the pandemic, has slowed down some of the promoting work Monaghan has been involved in, but instead he has taken to the airwaves ensuring the musicians who are suffering without live concerts can still be heard.

"I've been doing my very best throughout this virus to promote the musicians that are able to play live, and CDs," he said. "Now that they have the time they've been recording music they've set aside for quite some time. Once they record it they have no way to promote it. Since the virus I play a lot more new music. Muddy Waters has been dead for 40 years so it doesn't matter to him if I play his music ... I'm trying to help out where I can."

The physical Award for Best Jazz or Blues Music Show from the NCRA was created by a Toronto artist who hand-paints and hand binds notebooks, with each bespoke notebook's colour choices being inspired by the award.

"We chose a notebook because during the pandemic, and the lock-downs, we wanted to recognize the reality we are living in this year, but also celebrate the opportunity granted to us of time for creative pursuits," said Luke Smith, NCRA director of learning and development. "We hope that the award winners will see the notebooks as an opportunity to explore their creative side as they continue to create incredible programming."

Monaghan thanks everyone who has given him the opportunity he has had at Canoe FM, which has led to an award that celebrates his commitment and gusto, passion for learning, appreciation for the music he wants so much to share with listeners, and for the musicians who create it.

"This has been my passion, by all means, it's my joy, there's no question about that," he said.

The Buckslide Blues Cruise airs from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings on Canoe FM, 100.9 on the radio, or online at canoefm.com.

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Ryan is committed to listening to his clients' needs and utilizing his keen negotiating skills to ensure a successful transaction. When he is not engaged in his clients' real estate goals, he is an invested family man with three beautiful children. Prior to his career as a music and history teacher, Ryan completed his BA in History at Mount Alison University before obtaining his Teaching degree from the University Of Canterbury, New Zealand.

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Haliburton Highlands Museum advent calendar

The Haliburton Highlands Museum is celebrating the festive season in a special way this year. Each day, from Dec. 1 to Dec. 24, Kate Butler, the museum's director, will be showcasing different items and artefacts via a Museum Advent Calendar. This week, we shine a light on the third set of entries of the feature. The local museum will be showcasing each artefact on Twitter @HH_Museum.

Museum Advent Day 15: The first commercially produced Christmas cards were made in 1843. Victorian Christmas cards often featured images of robins, because those who worked for the Royal Mail wore red uniforms and were nicknamed "robins." /Photos submitted by Kate Butler

Museum Advent Day 16: Jingle Bells is one of the most widely known Christmas songs, but it actually wasn't written for Christmas – it was originally a Thanksgiving song! It also has the distinction of being the first song to be broadcast from space 55 years ago.

Museum Advent Day 17: According to a Census of Agriculture, in 2016, Canada was home to 1872 Christmas tree farms. Not just for domestic sales, Canada actually exports Christmas trees to 20 different countries around the world.

Museum Advent Day 18: The tune of Deck the Halls - and its fa la la la la - are famous, but they come from a Welsh song of the 16 th century, which originally had some lyrics considered a bit risqué by the Victorians. Scottish folk music enthusiast, Thomas Oliphant, who was known for writing new words to older tunes, penned the new lyrics.

Museum Advent Day 19: On December 19 th , 1843, Charles Dickens holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*, was published. As well as being a tale of a miser's transformation, it's also a ghost story. Ghost stories might seem odd for Christmas now, but for the Victorians they were an integral part of the holiday season.

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Museum Advent Day 20: Many people would find it hard to imagine Christmas dinner without turkey, but in Medieval Britain, wild boar was much more common. On the tables of the wealthy, swan and even peacock were known to make appearances. It's said, however, that Henry VIII was the first British monarch to feature turkey on his holiday table.

Museum Advent Day 22: Gingerbread has a history dating back millennia, but Queen Elizabeth I may be responsible for the invention of the gingerbread man. It's said she hosted a huge feast and required her cook to make a personalized biscuit to resemble each one of the guests – no pressure, eh?

Museum Advent Day 21: Edward Johnson, a friend of Thomas Edison, is reputed to have invented the first electric Christmas lights in the early 1880's. He hand-wired eighty red, white and blue bulbs to adorn his tree and not only that, but the Christmas tree also revolved.

Museum Advent Day 23: What's your favourite drink to warm up with during the holiday season? Mulled wine has variants from many different areas of the world, but its roots appear to go back to the Roman Empire. The hot drink was a way for Roman soldiers to ward off a chill and the spides and other additions may have originally been disguising not terribly good wine!

Museum Advent Day 24: A legend from Eastern Europe tells of a family who had no money to decorate their Christmas tree. When they went to sleep, the spiders of the house spun webs on the tree which turned to gold and silver in the first light on Christmas morning. Hope you have a magical Christmas!

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Bill Kulas

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Send your letters to the editor to mike@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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We will thrive again

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."

Jimi Hendrix

MARCI MANDEL
Way of Wonder

My grandparents came from villages in the old country that were constantly being eroded by war and disease. When I asked my grandmother what her father died of, she shrugged her shoulders and replied that it was from whatever the epidemic was that was going through at the time. Who knew back then? And with the lack of science and medicines, what difference would it have made?

Each generation wants something better for their offspring, and for my maternal grandparents, who met in Toronto in the 1920's, the priority was to work hard to provide a stable and safe home for their children. My parents' priority was to build on that security, providing my siblings and I with a university education.

So what do I have to offer? I'm not sure, but maybe it has something to do with emotions and shifting mindsets.

My ancestors had a lot of struggles in their lives. Living through wars, through the depression, and through early deaths from heart disease, it became necessary to be protective in the fragile landscape. The underlying feeling was survival and fear, and stockpiling was essential. Growing up with that kind of anxiety took a toll, and through the years, I've sought help to disengage from a way of being that, thanks to my family's sacrifices, no longer applied.

The way of thriving has a mindset that has nothing to do with what is or isn't in the pantry or bank account. Learning to see and live in the wonder, appreciate the abundance around, and embrace all that comes our way, is a process which I've been fortunate to write about in this column over the years. It's about journeying through life with a knowing that you don't have to figure it all out, you don't have to prove anything, and you don't have to have it all under control.

Instead, one who is thriving has a deep knowing they belong to something greater, and there's a peace in that, a groundedness that allows the nurturing love to fill you.

Love, I've learned, is not an endpoint. It's not a place to get to and then find another challenge. Love, instead, for me, is a power that animates life. Deep down it's in us all and is released when we relax and allow it to be free.

The power of love, the energy, the force, the light and darkness, the all vulnerable openness is the is-ness that is so incredibly healing. The wrong and rightness, the full and emptiness, the hope and sorrowfulness, and the everlasting undyingness - it's all the all-ness that is love.

So much has been lost this holiday season: the baking parties, the group gatherings, the end of term performances. It's been incredibly challenging because traditions, and their memories, are what bring us together, define us, and fill our hearts on those darkest of days. This year, there's been little of the carefree embracing of friends, little of the joy of working together to pull off a fundraising gala, and little of the boisterous family reunions.

But instead, what there has been, and there's been lots of it, is time.

Time to reassess what's important, time to re-establish our connection with the natural world, and time to allow the wonder of it all to seep in and fill us with appreciation.

At this time, when our hearts are open and searching, perhaps we can use our imaginations and conversations to envision a world of warmth and joy, of respect and maturity, and of quiet and openness. The future will become more powerful than the past when we embrace our own shortcomings, when we embrace one another's uniqueness, and when we embrace the love that's in every single smile that comes our way.

We may not be able to physically touch one another for a while still, but we can drop our guards and take notice of the love that's already here surrounding us and within us.

The light is returning.

Each day is getting a little longer.

Soon enough we will be planting seeds once again. Let's take this time to really think about what it is we want to grow, what it is we want this new light to sow.

For me it is about generating more warmth and joy. I may need to correct myself a hundred times a day trying to realign with that feeling, and that's okay. Maybe next week I'll only have to correct myself ninety-five times a day. Shifting mindsets is a process.

Each day, getting a little brighter, offers us a bit more foundation, a bit more security, a bit more alignment with the new vision

This pandemic, this disruption, can be one of the worst or one of the best things that happens to us. When the new normal comes, let it be us that decides what kind of garden we're standing in, and let's create that story now and not wait for it to happen to us.

We're all lovers. That's who we are happiest being.

Let it be.

Make it be.

With warmth, with joy, we will have peace.

With warmth, with joy, we will thrive.

Top 10 things not to put in a letter to Santa

We all know that Santa's approval is key to getting good Christmas gifts – and that starts with a nice letter. Write just one wrong thing and you are getting more socks and underwear instead of the private jet you asked for. With that in mind, here are 10 things that should never be written in a letter to Santa:

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Remember, if I'm not on the nice list, I know where you live.
2. FYI: reindeer meat is nutritious and delicious!
3. Before you land on my roof, I'd like you to sign this liability waiver.
4. Also, this year, there will be a nominal charge for rooftop parking.
5. Henceforth, I will be representing the elves in various class-action lawsuits.
6. I can tell by your red hat, you are too a MAGA supporter ….
7. Kiss my mom again and we've got an issue.
8. Due to COVID-19-related precautions, we'd prefer you to send gifts via Amazon.
9. If I get another tie, you are getting soy milk and cookies.
10. Try to do better this year.

Reflections

Scribble of River, thick as ink,
slinking between banks laden with Snow,
crows scrolling their calligraphy across the blankness of Sky,
their screeches reaching the branches of trees that poke through the Snow,
thin as pencils, sloping down towards the black mirror of River that cradles their reflections,
murky as shadows sinking into the depths of the River, its flow slowing as snowflakes fall.
I still my steps, pausing on the bridge, blinking snowflakes from my eyes,
listening to the quiet as the crows' caws recede, along with my thoughts,
only the pureness of this Snow, tumbling down in wet clumps,
cloaking the boulders that bulge along the riverbank,
veiling the limbs of trees, in layers of silence that slows my Breath,
thaws the stream of feelings frozen inside me,
memories rushing to the surface this time of year, of those who are no longer here.
The hand that held mine, as we trudged through the Snow up the hill,
then slid back down on the wooden toboggan, a giant figure curling into a smaller one,
laughter mingling with shrieks as Wind lashed our cheeks,
landing in a heap at the bottom of the hill,
that moment still fresh as the Snow that falls now,
those same hands hoisting me to place the tinfoil star on the top of the tree,
the boa of tinsel, the flicker of lights, snaking through its branches,
imbuing the tree with magic, flashes of childhood winking at me through the lace of Snow,
murkier reflections as I peer down into the River,
at the pine needles piercing the River's skin, my hand holding the older one,
steadying it as it reaches up to place the tinfoil star on the top of the tree,
admiring its lopsided beauty,
as my arms shroud the frozen boulders of the shoulders that once carried me.
I listen for the sound of Snow as it lands,
soft as the hands that kneaded warmth back into my cheeks,
watching the snowflakes melt into the River, becoming a part of the River's flow,
invisible as the stream of memories that trickles through me,
some buried so deep, I let them sleep,
peering at the pair of deer that lopes across the road,
their silhouettes blurred by Snow.

Sylvie Kalenda

Christmas in the Bush

A one-room school concert in 1956

MICHAEL BARNES
Special to *County Life*

In December, the British immigrant teacher was facing his greatest challenge. Life for the newcomer in the roughly 100-person community of Biscotasing, half way between Sudbury and Chapleau was not an easy existence. The word 'no' was prominent. There was no road out, no hydro, no running water, unless one ran for it to the well. Set amid the straggle of small houses were the train station, a seasonal church and the school.

The young teacher had little reason to be optimistic. His salary for ten months was well below what today would be called the poverty line and there were no benefits. Each month his personal debt grew as he shipped in food on the train and ordered necessary clothing from the catalogue.

At the unlit school house, of which he was the janitor at $40 a month, he often cut wood outside the door with a buck saw while his charges were at recess. For instruction there was one set of readers and a box of books kindly donated by the Imperial Daughters of the Empire. The two roller maps were plastered with chocolate bar advertisements, which at least only appeared in the oceans. The four-foot box stove sheltered older children's desk ink bottles at night. The warmth did not last. Often a frozen ink bottle cracked by morning, making the floor somewhat dark.

The teacher sat in his school board supplied house, which cost $20 a month. The place was hardly insulated with sawdust and leaned in the wind, but at least it was shelter.

He had received strong hints lately from passers by. The annual visit by the school inspector to the school named S.S.#1 Margaret might gauge the teacher's ability, but in the eyes of the locals it was the annual concert which provided the teacher's reputation.

In the week before the holidays, the older children dug out a very long wire and a great dusty moth holed curtain. For years at concert time the wire was strung across the room and the tawdry curtain set the stage. There were no lights but candles lit behind the curtain, there being no volunteer firemen to complain, while out front audience members brought their own Coleman lanterns to give a real seasonal effect in pools of light.

Tradition favoured the teacher. The audience loudly clapped and cheered all the little recitations, skits and one act plays. These were their kids and could do no wrong.

At the intermission the children sold pop and chips to raise money for a much-needed playground set. Donations were received by passing the hat.

Standing outside under the stars for a break, the teacher received some tentative nods of approval. One kind soul offered a flask. The teacher took a polite swig and experienced a mouth on fire from the home brew. Back inside the show went on.

A boy stuck his head out of the curtain and shouted "Closed! The store's closed.' This elicited gales of laughter as the store keeper would never open after hours.

But it was the finale that made the concert memorable. The curtain was pulled back to reveal the Grade 8 students, four boys and one girl, dressed in black with black cardboard 'guitars' strung from their necks. The needle on the borrowed wind-up gramophone struck up Elvis Presley's latest hit, "Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog.' The five gyrated and lip synced along with Elvis and in the close, smashed their cardboard instruments on each other.

The laughter reverberates for quite a while. "Pretty good, teacher" and the like were comments as parents left. The conductor of this motley band had been met with community approval.

A decade later the school closed and was torn down for lack of students and its site is now covered by encroaching bush. Today the station is gone, there is a dirt road out to the highway and only 22 residents remained at last count. Now thirty years retired from a respected career, the former teacher wonders what happened to his charges in that poorly endowed little school more than 60 years ago. He learned a lot from those children.

Michael Barnes ,C.M. lives in Minden. His books may be found in the County library system.

May you find health, happiness, and peace during the holiday season and through the coming year.

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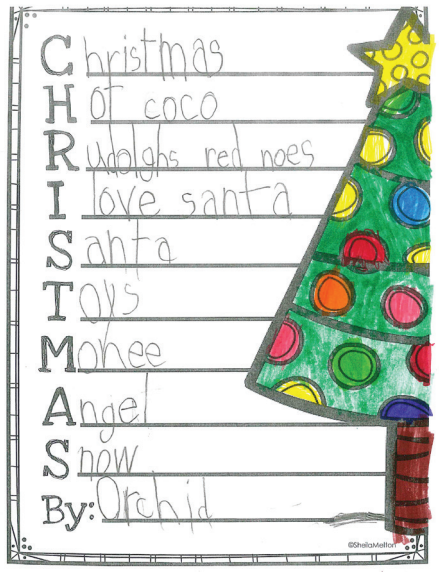
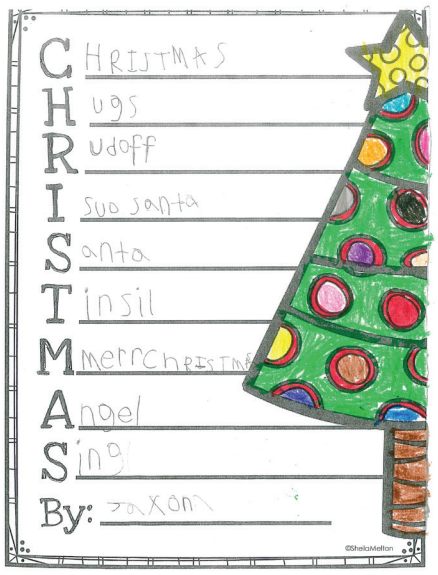
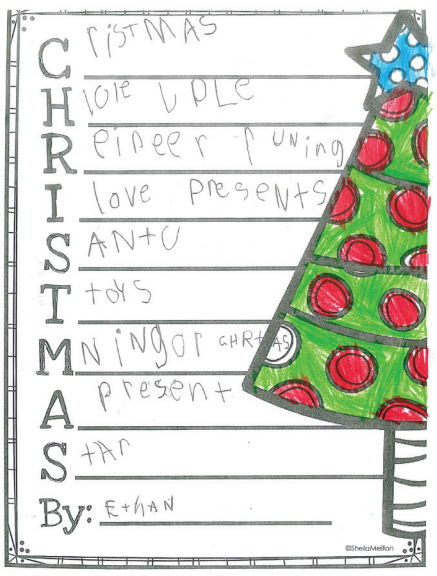
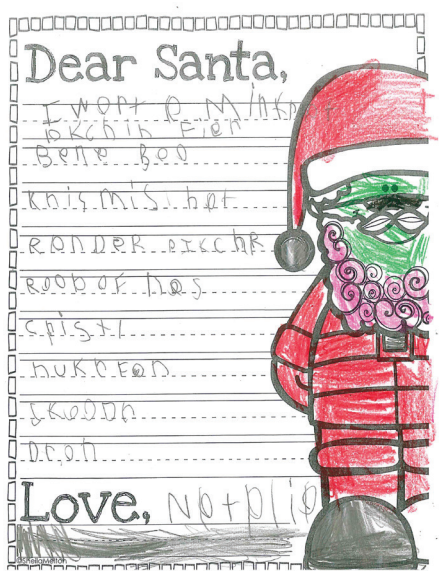
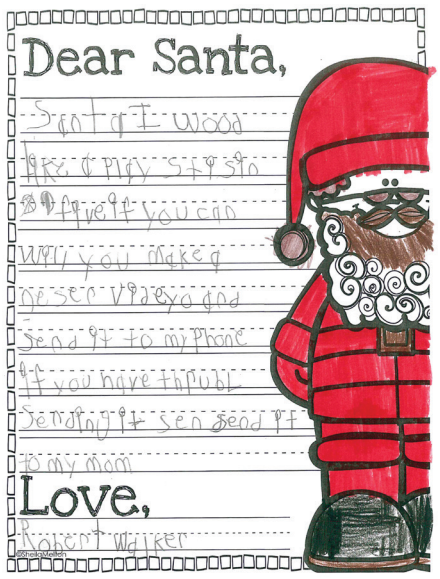
Mrs. Harrison's Grade 2 Christmas Writing











Holiday Recycling

Do your part! Recycle right this holiday season!

Recycling (Containers)

Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food

Aluminum foil and trays | Metal food cans | Plastic bottles (caps can be left on) | Plastic tubs, containers

Recycling (Papers)

Paper gift wrap | Paper gift tags | Paper gift bags (remove string) | Christmas cards & envelopes | Cardboard rolls | Cardboard boxes (flatten)

Garbage

Metallic or foil wrapping paper | Ribbons, bows, tape | Styrofoam shipping block | Bubble wrap | Broken ornaments | Plastic toy packaging (the hard-to-cut material)

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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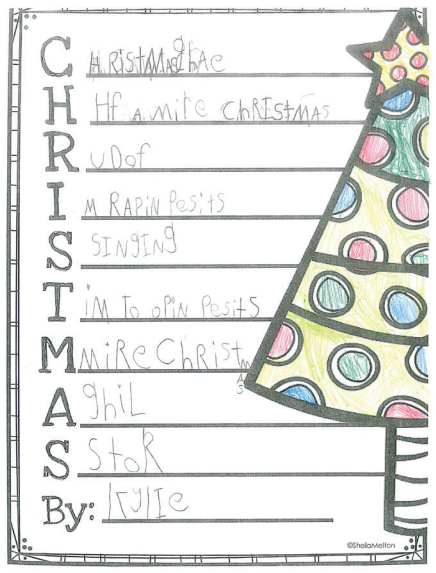

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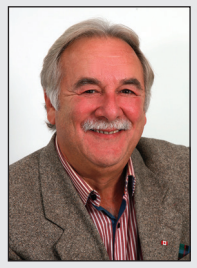
Jennifer Bacon*
Dean Michel*

Adele
Barry*

Drew Bishop**
Kristin Bishop*

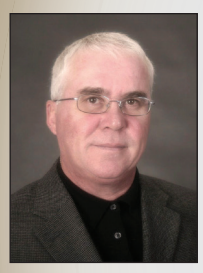
Dagmar
Boettcher**



Andy
Campbell*

Gloria Carnochan* &
Breann Budel*

Mark
Dennys*



Tom
Ecclestone*

Lindsay
Elder**

Andrew Hodgson***
& Anne Hodgson*

Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**

Kelly
Kay*

David Lee*

Donna
McCallum*

Brandon
Nimigon*

Karen
Nimigon**

Kirsten
Rae*

Darlene
Reil*

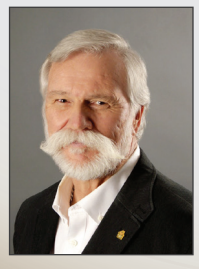
Christine
Sharp*

Greg
Stamp*

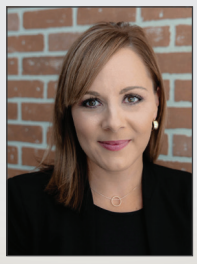
Melanie
Vigrass*

Nuriya (Nora)
Walter*

Lindsay
Wilkinson*



Tom
Wilkinson**



Andrea
Wilson**

Kelsey
Johnston

Anne
Moulton

Heather
Phillips

Vivian
Collings

In Loving Memory
of Lee Gauthier

From Our Family To Yours

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One child's gesture, sows seed of generosity

DARREN LUM
County Life Staff

An eight-year-old's selfless gesture is teaching a lesson in how a little can go a long way.

When Oliver Williams of Haliburton found $5 outside the A.J. LaRue Arena on Saturday, Dec. 5 it didn't occur to him to think of himself.

At first, "Olly" wanted to use the money to buy a gift for his grandma in Haliburton, but when he saw the sirens from the OPP cruisers on hand for a community collection for the food bank outside Foodland, he thought he should do the same.

Mother Chyna Schell offered to resolve her son's dilemma by matching her son's found money so he could donate to the food bank and get something for his grandma. They ended up going together and purchasing items for the food bank.

Later that day, Schell posted what her son did to social media, just like she usually does to update her husband's side of the family living in the United Kingdom.

"I just posted because I thought it was so sweet of Olly to have this genuine moment of understanding that even $5 can make a difference and I didn't really think much of it," she said.

Her post created a ripple of generosity that has grown into a tsunami of support for food banks here and everywhere donors happen to live. She's been amazed by the level of generosity and the lesson it has taught.

"I couldn't believe it. I got one message, then I got two messages," she said.

Her neighbours are friends with Brad Park and wife Danielle. Brad owns the Haliburton Foodland. Through that connection, Brad committed to matching whatever was raised by Dec. 12.

He said donating was about giving credence to the idea that every little bit is important "no matter how big or small that donation is, as every nickel and dime donated helps. If we can stretch this money as far as we can, it will benefit our community tremendously, especially this year with COVID challenges people face currently."

He adds Foodland grocery stores across Ontario are currently holding a food bank drive during the holiday season where customers are asked to donate any denomination to the local food bank. At the conclusion of the collection, a lump sum of gift cards can be used for food by people in need in the local community..

After this commitment, Schell said, "So that's when it really took off."

Originally, people were making local donations to whatever charitable organization they wanted, to match the $5 first donated by Olly. But when they saw the commitment by the local grocery store, that's when people, who had already donated in their own communities, whether it was in Tofino, B.C., or even in Waterloo, Ont., started sending donations directly to Olly's mom.

see page 15

Eight-year-old Oliver Williams of Haliburton holds up the $5 bill he found and used for the local food bank, which became the start of a movement of giving, resulting in $8,400 being raised for the local food bank.. Oliver's mother Chyna Schell posted this image and described how her son had thought of using the money for a gift for grandma or for the food bank. His selfless action has spawned a movement of giving that has served as a reminder that every little bit helps. Submitted by Chyna Schell.

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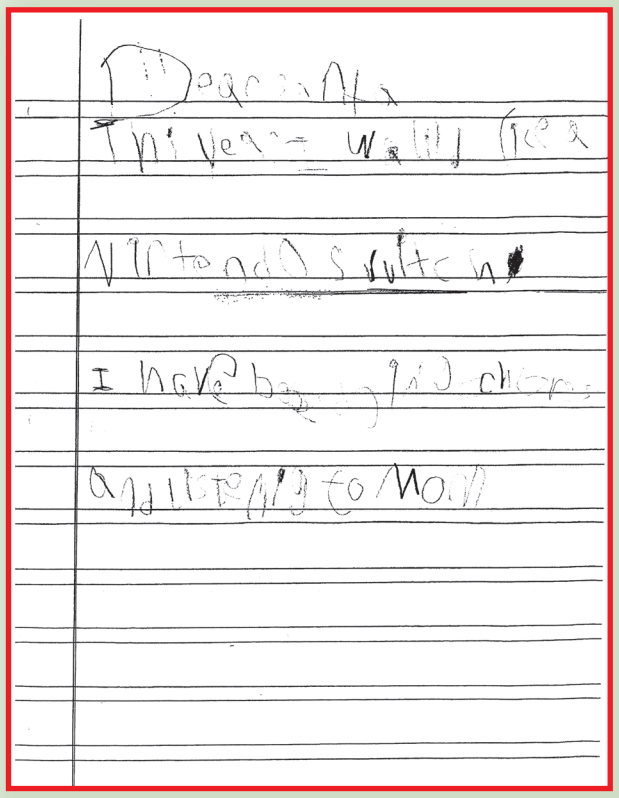
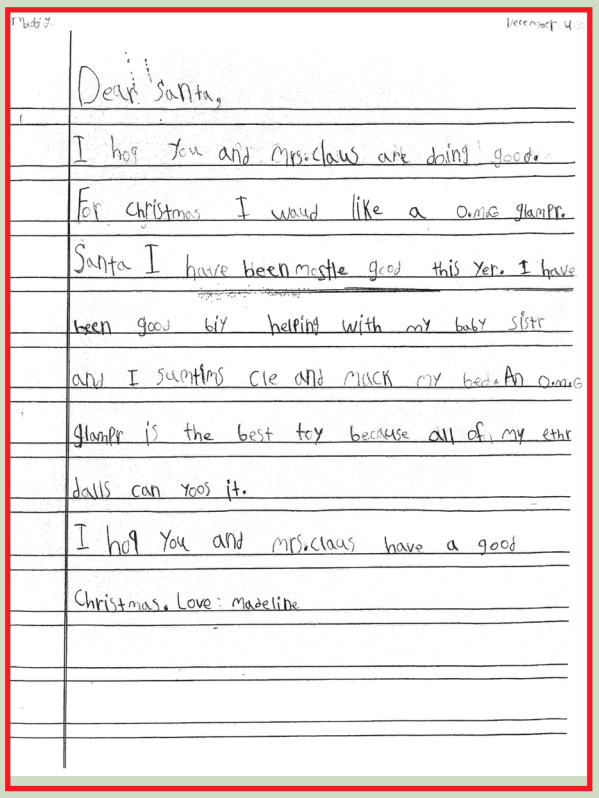
Now that is a great way to learn about your community and save some money as well!

Thanks for supporting local Journalism!

Cardiff Elementary School Letters to Santa





Dear Santa,

I hop you and mrs.claus are doing good.

For christmas I would like a omie glampr.

Santa I have been mostle good this yer. I have

been good bi helping with my baby sistr

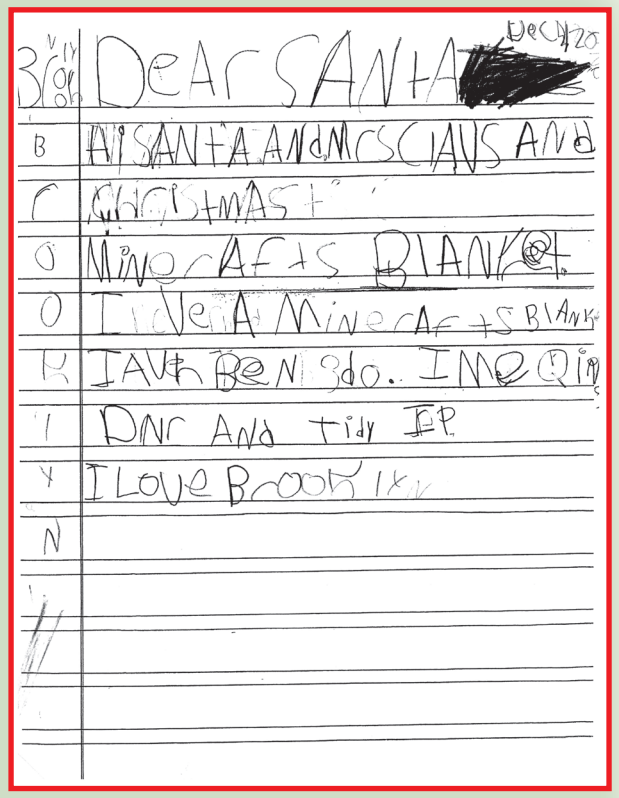
and I sumtims cle and mack my bed. An omie

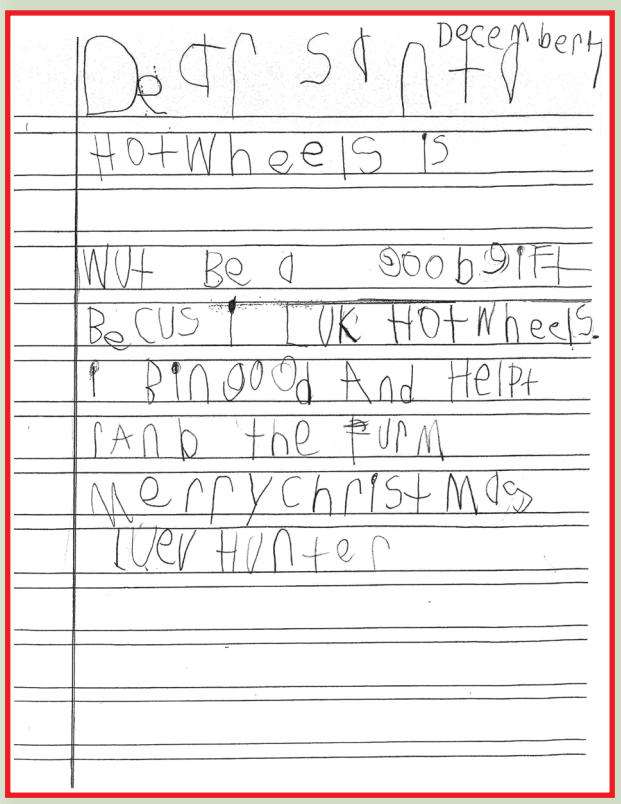
glampr is the best toy because all of my ethr

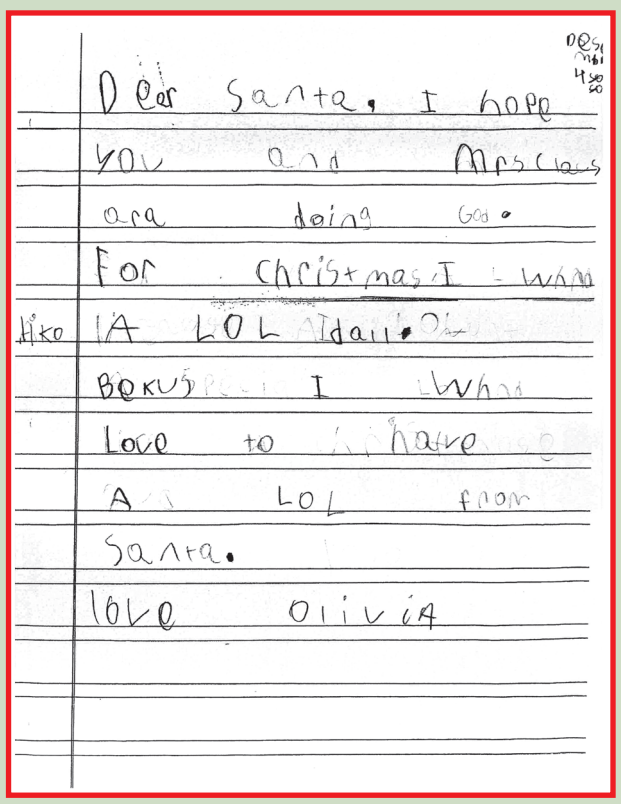
dolls can yoos it.

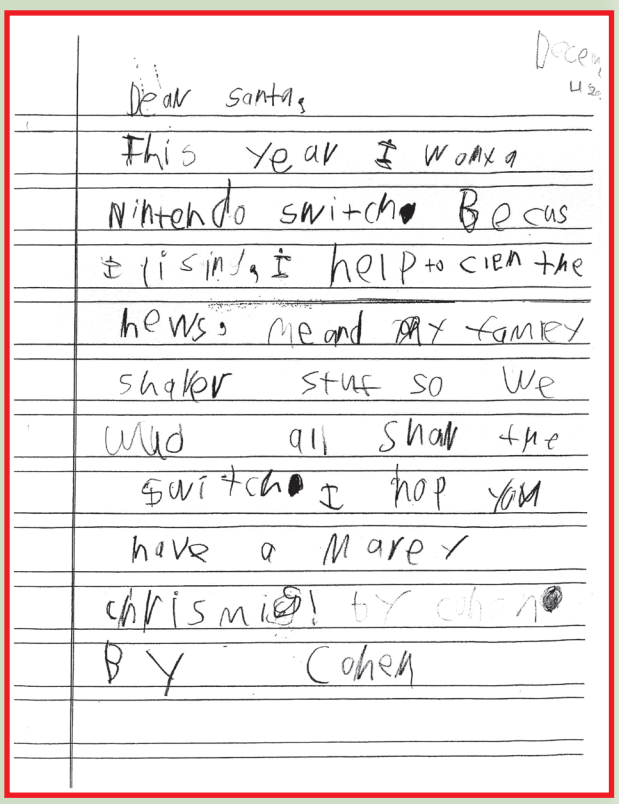
I hop you and mrs.claus have a good

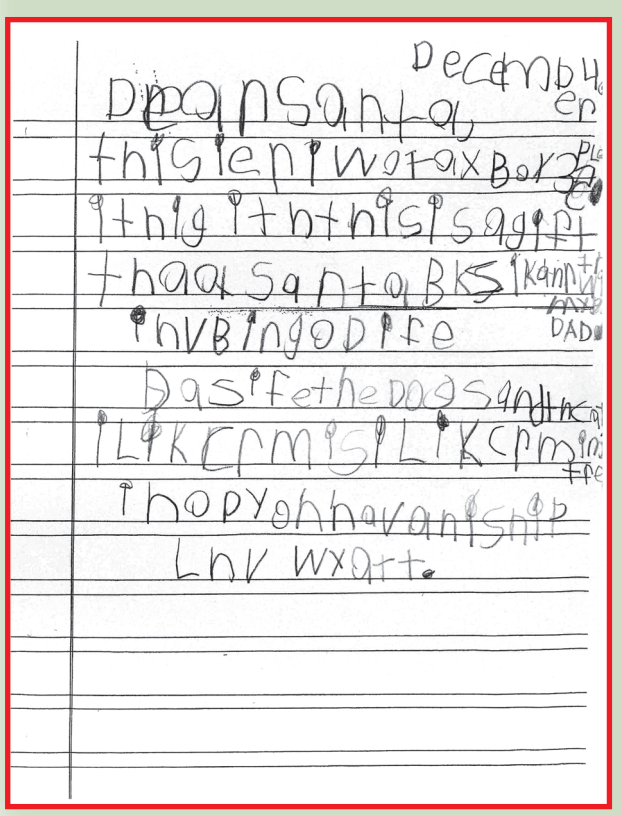
Christmas. Love: Madeline

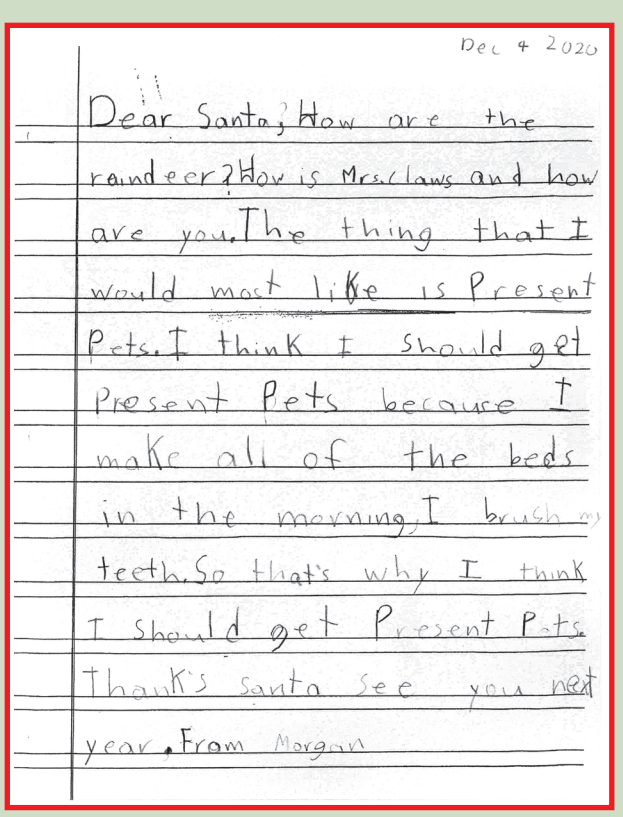












Dec 4 2020

Dear Santa, How are the

raindeer? How is Mrs.claws and how

are you. The thing that I

would most like is Present

Pets. I think I should get

Present Pets because I

make all of the beds

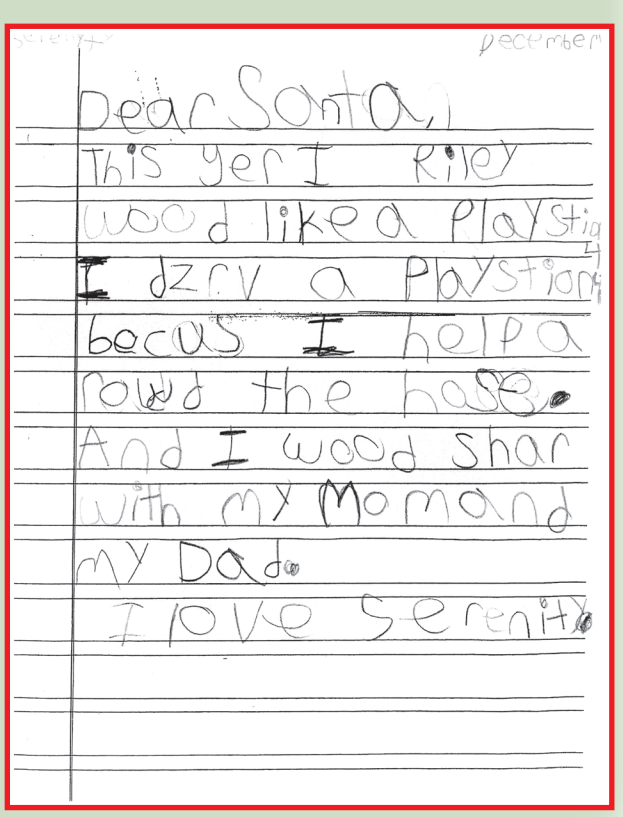
in the morning, I brush my

teeth. So that's why I think

I should get Present Pets.

Thank's santa See you next

year. From Morgan



December

Dear Santa,

This yer I Riley

wood like a Playsta

I dzrv a Playstion

becus I help

round the hase.

And I wood shar

with my Momand

my Dad.

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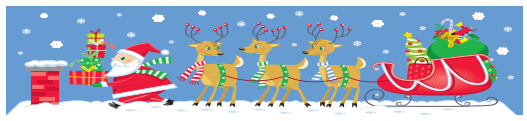

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An eight-year-old's spark brings the community together

from page 10

"People were messaging me and saying, 'Can I send you an e-transfer? We've already made our local donation, but we really want it to be matched as well and I have so many e-transfers I now have an Excel spreadsheet. This has just taken off and in three days, I think we're around $1,200," Chyna said, specifying this is the worldwide total early last week.

There are still more e-transfers to deposit, she adds.

Most recently, Highlands business CDH Carpentry has promised to also match the final fundraised total.

Chyna, the mother of two young boys said her eldest son, Olly has also been blown away by the turn of events.

"Every night I update him and tell him where all these donations are coming from and we've talked a lot about how much of a difference just a little bit can make and how amazing it is that just teaching people that they don't have to give a lot. Literally, all our donations have just been $5 per family member," she said. The final tally was $8,400, as the collection finished with $2,800 and then had the matching donations by the Foodland and CDH Carpentry.

Being a 2006 graduate of the local high school, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and running a dance school in Haliburton and raising two boys, Schell knows the community well.

"I've seen this town come together for everything. From family devastation with house fires to just anything. The amount that our town can come together and just support each other is incredible," she said. "Part of me wants to say I'm not surprised in the slightest that we have come together this much because I've seen it before."

Schell admits before this she didn't feel good about donating small amounts to charitable causes and believes her son taught her to put aside the ego to help in any way, no matter how small it may seem.

"Honestly, I'm loving the lesson because I'm guilty of it too. I'm completely guilty of thinking if I can't afford to donate a lot then – not that there's no point in donating a little. But there is this feeling of embarrassment I've given only this much. My favourite part of all of this is the lesson that when we all come together and give a little bit each it doesn't take much to grow it very quickly, so to just inspire people and make people feel comfortable and OK without only giving what they can and that's what people are really focusing on and it's been so amazing," she said.

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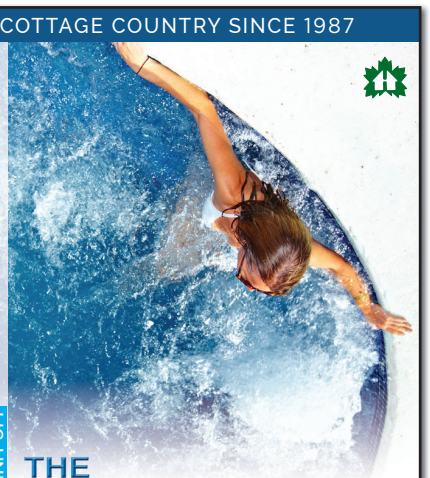
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Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Changing the world

Students come together to build hospital abroad

4

Wind symphony

Holiday melodies fill the Northern Lights Pavilion

20

Leaving a tip

Red Hawks Meghan LaPierre tips the ball beyond the stretch of a Fenelon Falls Secondary School player in their fourth game of the exhibition tournament at HHSS on Thursday, Dec. 2. See coverage of the game on page 27. Darren Lum Echo staff

First snowfall claims 15 vehicles

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

When it was all said and done there were 15 reports of motor vehicle collisions in Haliburton County after the first serious snowfall left behind 11 centimetres of snow on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

OPP officer Mark McMaster said road conditions on the day were "treacherous."

Last year when the county was hit by a similar blast of winter there were fewer OPP calls, he remembers, owing to the kind of snow, describing it as "slushy."

"That's the type of snow that is not very forgiving," he said. "When you get in that slush it just pulls you [off the road]."

Specific accident numbers were not readily available for comparison.

Despite the high rate of calls received by the police, Doug Ray, the Haliburton County roads department director, said, "It was a typical storm for us ... we get a number of these type of storms a year."

Although his crew did not work any more than normal, the department was in "continuous" motion, from 4 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., with its fleet of six tandem trucks, plowing, salting and sanding for the storm "that just came all at once."

They plow five routes, measuring at least 250 km of road, taking four hours to complete a route.

However the responsibility for some county roads are shared, such as Horseshoe Lake Road and Deep Bay Road covered by Minden Hills, Harburn Road by Dysart and three by Algonquin Highlands road crews. These shared

see BEST WAY page 3

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CHANDLER POINT $55,700

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COMMERCIAL - THE LAKE VIEW MOTEL $1,950,000

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KENNISIS LAKE $1,675,000

THE RE/MAX COLLECTION

Stunning year-round waterfront home or cottage. This 3 bdrm/3 bath home offers spacious living and high-end finishing's. A well-appointed kitchen with quartz countertops and large island for incredible prep space. Living room features a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and soaring windows for big lake views. Four-season sunroom with slate flooring opens to deck and large, landscaped level yard for all your entertaining needs. Large master bedroom with a dream 4 piece ensuite. Main floor laundry, ample parking, double detached garage and much more. Enjoy a fun-filled day along the sandy beach area with a safe and gradual walk into deep clean swimming.

VACANT LOTS

30th Line
$69,900 4.99AC

Salerno Lake Road
$53,900 1.05AC

Holiday Greetings!

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with Peace and Happiness!

Sincerely
Linda Baumgartner
& The Haliburton Real Estate Team